

Network Load Balancing with Connection Manipulation

RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

This U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent (i) is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent No. 10/610,506 (filed June 30, 2003), (ii) is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent No. 10/610,519 (filed June 30, 2003), and (iii) is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent No. 10/610,321 (filed June 30, 2003).

Specifically, this U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent is a continuation-in-part of, and hereby incorporates by reference herein the entire disclosure of, co-pending U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent No. 10/610,506, filed June 30, 2003, and entitled "Flexible Network Load Balancing".

Specifically, this U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent is also a continuation-in-part of, and hereby incorporates by reference herein the entire disclosure of, co-pending U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent No. 10/610,519, filed June 30, 2003, and entitled "Network Load Balancing with Host Status Information".

Specifically, this U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent is also a continuation-in-part of, and hereby incorporates by reference herein the entire disclosure of, co-pending U.S. Nonprovisional Application for Letters Patent No.

1 10/610,321, filed June 30, 2003, and entitled "Network Load Balancing with
2 Session Information".

3 4 TECHNICAL FIELD

5 This disclosure relates in general to network load balancing and in
6 particular, by way of example but not limitation, to network load balancing with
7 connection manipulation, such as connection migration with tunneling and/or
8 connection migration in conjunction with application-level load balancing.

9 10 BACKGROUND

11 Communication, and many facets of life that involve communication, has
12 been greatly impacted by the Internet. The Internet enables information to be
13 communicated between two people and/or entities quickly and relatively easily.
14 The Internet includes many network nodes that are linked together such that
15 information may be transferred between and among them. Some network nodes
16 may be routers that propagate a packet from one link to another, may be individual
17 client computers, may be personal networks for different entities (e.g., intranets
18 for businesses), and so forth.

19 For this personal network case, as well as others, packets arriving at an
20 Internet node or nodes are distributed to other nodes within the personal network.
21 Such a personal network may be formed, for example, from a set of servers that
22 can each work on packets that arrive at the personal network. A business, a
23 university, a government office, etc. may receive many packets in a short
24 timeframe at its personal network. In order to respond in a timely manner and to
25 ~~reduce the likelihood of rejection or loss of arriving packets, the personal network~~